IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Original) A multi-element polycrystal, which is a mixed crystal essentially formed of elements A and B having different absorption wavelength ranges and having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x}B_X$, wherein

the element B absorbs light over a longer range of wavelength from a shorter to longer wavelength range than the element A;

each of the crystal grains of the mixed crystal has a crystallographic texture composed of a plurality of discrete regions dispersed in a matrix thereof; and

the average composition of the matrix is represented by $A_{1-x1}B_{x1}$ and the average composition of the discrete regions is represented by $A_{1-x2}B_{x2}$ where $X1 < X < X2$.

Claim 2. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 1, wherein said $A_{1-x}B_x$ is $Si_{1-x}Ge_x$.

Claim 3. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 2, wherein said X satisfies the relationship: $X \leq 0.1$.

Claim 4. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 2, wherein the crystal grains each have a columnar shape, and the discrete regions are three-dimensionally dispersed in the matrix having strain.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 1, which is used in a solar cell,

wherein said use includes:

<u>incorporating the multi-element polycrystal as a battery of the solar cell.</u>

Claim 6. (Original) A multi-element polycrystal, which is a mixed crystal essentially formed of elements C, D, and E having different absorption wavelength ranges and having an average composition represented by $C_{1-x}D_xE$,

wherein

each of the crystal grains of the mixed crystal has a crystallographic texture having a plurality of discrete regions dispersed in a matrix thereof; and

the average composition of the matrix is represented by $C_{1-x1}D_{x1}E$ and the average composition of the discrete regions is represented by $C_{1-x2}D_{x2}E$, where $X1 < X < X2$.

Claim 7. (Original) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 6, wherein said $C_{1-x}D_xE$ is $Ga_{1-x}In_xAs$.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The multi-element polycrystal according to claim 6, which is used in a solar cell<u>,</u>

<u>wherein said use includes:</u>

<u>incorporating the multi-element polycrystal as a battery of the solar cell.</u>

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a multi-element polycrystal ~~having polycrystalline grains each being formed of a crystallographic texture having discrete regions dispersed in a matrix~~, comprising the steps of:

preparing a melt containing ~~multi~~ <u>multiple</u> elements; and

cooling the melt while controlling a cooling rate and/or a composition of the melt to obtain a multi-element polycrystal<u>, wherein</u>

the multi-element polycrystal includes polycrystalline grains each being formed of a crystallographic texture having discrete regions dispersed in a matrix.

Claim 10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the melt has a composition for a mixed crystal represented by $A_{1-x}B_x$; the element B absorbs light over a longer range of wavelength from a shorter to longer wavelength range than the element A; each of the polycrystal grains manufactured has a crystallographic texture in which a plurality of discrete regions having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x2}B_{x2}$ are dispersed in a matrix thereof having an average composition represented by $A_{1-x}B_x$ where $X1 < X < X2$.

Claim 11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the element A is Si and the element B is Ge.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 10, wherein said X satisfies the relationship: $X \leq 0.1$.

Claim 13. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the melt has components of a mixed crystal represented by $C_{1-x}D_xE$,

each of the polycrystal grains manufactured has a plurality of discrete regions dispersed in a matrix thereof; and

the average composition of the matrix is represented by $C_{1-x1}D_{x1}E$ and the average composition of the discrete regions is represented by $C_{1-x2}D_{x2}E$, where $X1 < X < X2$.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[9]] 13, wherein the elements C, D and E are respectively Ga, In and As.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a solar cell by using a

multi-element polycrystal manufactured by the method according to claim 9, comprising:

incorporating the multi-element polycrystal as a battery of the solar cell.